

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - February 20, 2007

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Ruben Barrera-Mendoza was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in San Diego by the Honorable William Q. Hayes to serve 51 months in custody, based on Barrera's conviction for importation of 23.30 kilograms of cocaine. Judge Hayes also ordered that Barrera serve a three-year term of supervised release following his release from prison and pay a special assessment of \$100.

According to court documents, Barrera pled guilty on November 17, 2006, to being the driver of a 1989 Toyota Camry that entered the United States from Mexico through the Calexico, California East Port of Entry on August 11, 2006, and which contained 23.30 kilograms of cocaine concealed inside the vehicle in a non-factory compartment built under the rear seat in the floorboard.

DEFENDANT

Case No. 06cr2180-WQH

Ruben Barrera-Mendoza

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952, 960 (Importation of Cocaine)

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Customs and Border Protection